UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/279
17 May 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Item 123 of the preliminary list*

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Consolidated summary of the comments and recommendations made by Member States and intergovernmental bodies since 1988 on the draft introduction to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Note by the Secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	BACKGROUND	1 - 8	4
II.	COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY CENTRAL REVIEWING BODIES	9 - 87	6
	A. Methodology	9 - 15	6
	B. Mandates and programmes	16 - 48	8
	1. Peace, security, disarmament and the self-determination of peoples	16 - 25	8
	2. International law, human rights and fundamental freedoms	26 - 30	12
	3. Economic and social advancement of all peoples	31 - 45	14
	4. Information and common services	46 - 48	19

* A/45/50.

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
	C. Priorities	49 - 59	21
	D. Structure of the plan	60 - 87	24
III.	COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE FUNCTIONAL, SECTORAL AND REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL OR EXPERT REVIEWING BODIES	88 - 140	32
	A. Statistical Commission	89 - 91	32
	B. Population Commission	92 - 93	33
	C. Ninth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance	94 - 95	33
	D. Commission for Social Development	96	34
	E. Commission on the Status of Women	97 - 99	34
	F. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	100 - 101	35
	G. Committee on Natural Resources	102 - 104	36
	H. Economic Commission for Africa	105 - 111	37
	I. Economic Commission for Europe	112	39
	J. Commission on Transnational Corporations	113 - 115	40
	K. Commission on Human Settlements (Habitat)	116	40
	L. Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme	117	42
	M. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	118	42
	N. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	119	43
	O. Committee on Conferences	120 - 122	43
	P. Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development	123 - 124	44
	Q. Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board	125	44
	R. Commission on Narcotic Drugs	126 - 131	45

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
S.	International Narcotics Control Board	132	46
T.	Committee on Crime Prevention and Control	133 - 134	46
U.	Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy	135 - 136	47
V.	Committee on Information	137	47
W.	Commission on Human Rights	138	47
X.	Committee on Development Planning	139	47
Y.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	140	47
Annex.	Proposed programme structure of the medium-term plan for the period beginning in 1992		48

I. BACKGROUND

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, in which the Assembly called for the submission of the introduction to the medium-term plan to Member States for wide consultations, the involvement of Member States in the process of preparation of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 has been wide-ranging and comprehensive. In 1987, a note by the Secretary-General giving some perspectives on the work of the United Nations in the next decade, which was intended to provide a framework for the preparation of the next plan, was submitted to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/42/512). That document was discussed extensively, including through written comments by Member States in the form of notes verbales. The Secretariat took them into account in preparing the draft introduction to the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, which was annexed to the note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the next medium-term plan (A/43/329 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2). That note, issued in May 1988, also contained proposals on the structure of the plan and was discussed by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988, by CPC at its resumed twenty-eighth session, by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and by the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

2. Comments made by delegations during the Council's discussion were reflected in the summary record of its 37th meeting (E/1988/SR.37). An account of the discussion in CPC and its conclusions and recommendations is contained in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly (A/43/16, part two, paras. 36-73). The conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions are contained in its report (A/43/626).

3. On 12 October 1988, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, through the President of the General Assembly, transmitted the draft introduction and the recommendations of CPC thereon to the Chairmen of the other Main Committees and requested comments from the Main Committees on the draft introduction in order to assist the Fifth Committee in its deliberations on the matter. The substantive portions of the replies of the Main Committees were reproduced in document A/C.5/43/36. Delegations' deliberations in the various Main Committees were recorded as follows:

First Committee:	A/C.1/43/PV.27
Special Political Committee:	A/SPC/43/L.10
Second Committee:	A/C.2/43/SR.30, 39 and 41
Third Committee:	A/C.3/43/SR.31 and 32
Fourth Committee:	A/C.4/43/SR.8
Fifth Committee:	A/C.5/43/SR.19, 26, 29, 31, 34 and 50.

The Sixth Committee made no comments on the Secretary-General's note.

4. In paragraph 8 of section II of its resolution 43/219 of 21 December 1988 on programme planning, the General Assembly invited all intergovernmental bodies, when considering in 1989 the pertinent portions of the proposed medium-term plan for the

READEX FICHE

period 1992-1997, "to give due attention to the most appropriate structure for the major programme or major programmes, programmes and subprogrammes submitted for their consideration, as compared with the current structure and in the light of an analysis of the objectives, trends and general orientations derived from the mandates of the intergovernmental bodies, to be provided by the Secretary-General".

5. In paragraph 10 of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to submit to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a consolidated summary of the comments and recommendations made by Member States and the intergovernmental bodies referred to above, in particular concerning the structure of the plan, together with his proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997".

6. The most thorough, lengthy and detailed review of the draft introduction was conducted by CPC. The format of the present summary is therefore modelled on the treatment of the review of CPC as contained in the report on its twenty-eighth session (A/43/16, part two, paras. 36-73). In that report, the discussion was set out under the headings of methodology, mandates and programmes, priorities, structure, duration, and conclusions and recommendations. Thus, all comments made in the other reviewing bodies have been placed in the appropriate category in the attached summary. However, those on the duration of the plan period were not reproduced because the General Assembly decided, at its forty-third session, that the next plan would cover the period 1992-1997.

7. The form of the discussion in CPC can be called a précis in that it reflects groupings of comments around a common theme. On the other hand, the summary records of the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees of the General Assembly reflect condensed versions of each delegation's statement in the order in which they spoke. In order to produce the "consolidated summary" requested by the Assembly, comments made in all reviewing bodies have been regrouped in the form of a précis along the lines of the one in the CPC report. Thus, delegations are not identified, and their views are reflected as the observations of "some delegations" or "other delegations". An exception to this approach was made for the comments sent by the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. As delegations pointed out, many of the views expressed had already been stated in other forums. Accordingly, in the interests of consolidation, the summary that follows has tried to the maximum extent possible not to repeat observations expressed in more than one reviewing body.

II. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY CENTRAL REVIEWING BODIES

A. Methodology

1. Economic and Social Council

9. Some delegations welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had based his draft introduction on the Charter of the United Nations, particularly its Preamble and Article 1, which set forth the purposes of the Organization, and it was stated that the note objectively reflected the current situation in the world and the demands that faced the Organization. However, some delegations stressed that the United Nations was an organ not just for deliberation, but also for negotiation and decision. The view was also expressed that the note treated problems of varying importance on the same footing.

2. Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

10. Some delegations believed that the draft did not fully comply with regulation 3.7 and rule 103.7, of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programmme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, which set forth the function and purpose of the introduction to the medium-term plan. They stated that the introduction should indicate objectives, strategy and trends, and should contain the Secretary-General's proposals on priorities.

11. Some delegations agreed with the general thrust of the draft introduction, in particular with a proposed comprehensive approach to different threats to and aspects of international security. They endorsed the idea that the maintenance of international peace and security through the prevention and removal of threats to peace through the institution of international norms of behaviour and through economic and social development and the defence of human rights could not be achieved without joint concerted action. Some other delegations considered that the draft lacked a coherent thrust and an overall philosophy. It was too descriptive and listed in too much detail what appeared to be a catalogue of mandates. The medium-term plan itself, rather than the introduction, should contain the details of the Organization's future work. What was required in the introduction was a more thorough analysis and synthesis of mandates and programmes. Some delegations said the note contained very few ideas and many statements that were vague, general and sometimes conflicting. It should have been preceded by a summary of what had been done in the past in order to indicate trends in the future. Some delegations thought the note should be rethought and redrafted.

12. Other delegations were of the opinion that the note by the Secretary-General represented a fair effort to reflect the views of Member States as expressed heretofore. While some of those delegations disagreed with the draft introduction on points of detail, they believed it struck a certain balance, albeit an imperfect one, and offered an acceptable overview. An attempt to redraft the note would not necessarily produce results that all delegations could support, it was stated. It was further stated that even a perfectly compiled medium-term plan was no

substitute for real political will on the part of Member States in carrying it out. Some delegations emphasized that their written replies to the Secretary-General's earlier request for comments remained valid, as did the statements made on their behalf at the Economic and Social Council.

3. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

13. The Advisory Committee drew attention to the need to clarify the intended coverage of the plan. In the Committee's opinion, if the plan was intended to cover all programmes and activities funded from the regular budget as well as all other activities funded from extrabudgetary resources, the following comments should be borne in mind. With regard to extrabudgetary resources, the Committee noted that there were two types: those under full custody of and administration by the Secretary-General, such as trust funds and special accounts, and those that were directly administered by semi-autonomous entities such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat). In the case of those semi-autonomous entities whose programmes and priorities were approved by their respective governing bodies, questions arose as to the extent that programmes and priorities so approved dovetailed with those included in the medium-term plan. As regards the format and presentation of the draft introduction to the plan, the Advisory Committee recommended that, in future exercises, information contained in sections II (mandates and programmes) and III (comments on priorities) of the draft introduction should be appropriately combined. Such an approach would reduce the possibility of contradictory statements being inadvertently made and would obviate the need to cross-refer between the two sectors.

4. Fifth Committee of the General Assembly

14. Some delegations stated that the draft introduction to the medium-term plan was a critical element in the planning process, and should serve as an analytical tool for indicating the main lines of United Nations activities, the obstacles impeding their implementation, and appropriate conclusions. Yet, in the view of those delegations, the documents before the Committee were inadequate; a more penetrating analysis was required. The plan, of which the introduction was an integral part, must be future-oriented and must indicate the main thrust of United Nations activities and possible alternative approaches, it was stated. The introduction should contain a broad outline indicating the respective areas of competence of the principal organs of the Secretariat. In that context, consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and inter-agency co-ordination in system-wide planning were of obvious importance. The introduction, pursuant to regulation 3.7, should, it was said, indicate objectives, strategy and trends in accordance with the priorities set by intergovernmental organizations. Account should be taken of the concerns expressed by delegations over the programme of economic recovery for Africa.

15. Other delegations stated that the draft introduction, although too long and detailed, represented an honest attempt to strike a balance among the interests of the different Member States, where consensus was often elusive. It was also stated that the note was a considerable improvement over the preceding draft and thus could serve as a basis for preparing the medium-term plan. Nevertheless, it would have to be further improved by eliminating the redundancies and repetition of themes and objectives in various chapters, in the view of those delegations. Some delegations felt that the introduction to the plan should acknowledge the relationship between economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand, and civil and political rights on the other, and give equal prominence to both. Attention should also be given, in the view of those delegations, to enforcement of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and reference should be made to the work of the special rapporteurs on the use of mercenaries and the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and cultural assistance to the colonialist régime of South Africa. For other delegations, support for fundamental freedoms included an unshakeable attachment to the freedom of opinion and expression, as elaborated in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Some delegations considered that emphasis might have been given in the draft to the need to restore the occupied Palestinian territory and other occupied Arab territories and to decide upon the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the apartheid regime; the special role of the United Nations with regard to the Namibian and Palestinian questions; state terrorism directed against the Palestinian people and against the peoples of Namibia and Azania; obstacles to development, such as debt; and the need to harmonize the activities of the specialized agencies with mainstream United Nations activity in the economic and financial fields. The drug question, it was said, should be taken up under the heading of economic and social development. With regard to common services and conference servicing, the Secretary-General should place greater emphasis on a coherent plan for technological innovation so as to maintain the drive towards improved efficiency, said some delegations. Those areas should not be viewed as mere ancillary activities; they encompassed substantive programmes which, if properly implemented, would have beneficial effects on the functioning of the Organization.

B. Mandates and programmes

1. Peace, security, disarmament and the self-determination of peoples

(a) Economic and Social Council

16. Some delegations agreed that survival and economic and social progress required the end of the arms race, effective disarmament measures and the utilization for peaceful purposes of the human, material and financial resources thus freed. A number of delegations insisted on the importance of conventional disarmament and the strengthening of regional security. Furthermore, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992, would provide an opportunity for all States to elaborate norms and principles in this

field. Other delegations felt greater stress should have been laid on the obligation not to use force against the territorial integrity and political independence of States and on the suppression of acts of aggression. Specific reference should have been made, it was stated, to the need to liberate the occupied Palestinian territory and other occupied Arab territories, and the question of Namibia should have been further highlighted. Furthermore, in the view of some delegations, there was no reason to omit the name of the State that practised apartheid, the subject of many United Nations resolutions. Finally, certain ideas or formulations on the subject of disarmament should be reviewed or made more precise, it was stated. The proposed enhancement of the ability of the Secretary-General to assist the Security Council to prevent crises found some support among delegations.

(b) Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

17. Some delegations stated that it was necessary to place greater emphasis on the need to resolve regional conflicts and to emphasize the role of the General Assembly, together with that of the Security Council and the Secretary-General, in peace-keeping. Emphasis should also be laid on the role of the General Assembly in areas such as disarmament, the codification and development of international law and international co-operation for development, among others. In addition, greater stress should be laid on non-use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes and suppression of acts of aggression, as well as the link between disarmament and development and the follow-up to the Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. Some delegations stated that the need to ensure the restoration of the occupied Arab territories and to enforce the arms embargo against South Africa and eliminate apartheid should be underlined. Some others, however, said the references to those matters in the draft introduction did not reflect balance. The point was made that it was necessary to ensure the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as enshrined in resolution 1514 (XV). Furthermore, it was necessary in the view of some delegations to clarify the special role played by the United Nations in the questions of Namibia and Palestine. However, strong reservations were expressed by some delegations concerning the references in the draft introduction to a comprehensive test ban, nuclear-free zones and verification, and concerning the concept of good-neighbourliness. Other delegations strongly supported those references as well as the concept of good-neighbourliness. Concern was also expressed by some delegations regarding comprehensive solutions to global problems that might, in fact, undermine the integrity of the Charter and that therefore needed careful exploration and discussion before incorporation into United Nations plans.

(c) Main Committees of the General Assembly

(i) First Committee

18. In transmitting the text of the First Committee's reply (see A/C.5/43/36), dated 4 November 1988, the Chairman of the First Committee noted that two delegations had not joined the consensus on the final paragraph thereof. Annexed to the letter were the views of six individual States members of the First

Committee. The portion of the First Committee's reply relevant to the draft introduction to the medium-term plan (ibid., para. 4) reads as follows:

...

"In his draft introduction to the next medium-term plan, the Secretary-General indicates that 'the Organization must also continue to accord high priority to the work of its disarmament organs'. In order to reflect this priority and to carry out its increased work-load, every effort should be made to enhance and strengthen the effectiveness of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, one of the smallest units of the Secretariat, and the resources accorded to the Department should be commensurate with the requirements of its mandated tasks within the existing resources of the Secretariat and in accordance with resolution 41/213. In this respect, the Committee noted the recommendation contained in paragraph 37 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-eighth session.

"Considering the universality of interest in disarmament, an equitable representation on as wide a geographical basis as possible in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations should be fully reflected. Without prejudice to these principles, the employment of women at all levels should be encouraged.

"Concerns have been expressed with regard to some concepts contained in the Secretary-General's note. Taking into account the importance of the subject-matter involved and that arms limitations and disarmament must remain a high priority of the United Nations in the coming years, the Committee considers that more time should be devoted to the examination of this document. It transmits the views of Member States as annexed herewith."

19. The relevant part of the letters from the six States members of the First Committee are summarized below.

20. Some delegations believed that the paragraphs in the note referring to disarmament should take account of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament (General Assembly resolution S-10/2), and that the wording should be more general and should include the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. It was also necessary to reaffirm the need for practical measures to halt the nuclear arms race and prevent the outbreak of a nuclear war. References in the text should be to arms limitation, not to arms "control". With regard to the convention on chemical weapons, what was important was not to draft the convention, but to conclude it, it was stated. Some delegations thought greater emphasis should be laid on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and explicit reference should be included to the need to implement the programme of action adopted by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The wording of the note should be brought strictly into line with existing resolutions of the General Assembly on disarmament, particularly those that had been adopted by consensus. It was further stated that,

bilateral and multilateral negotiations should be regarded as complementary, with no causal or hierarchical relationship established between them. It was pointed out that the goal of the Organization was not to reduce nuclear weapons further, but to continue to seek to eliminate them. That goal could be reached through the conclusion of international agreements containing measures for nuclear disarmament. Some delegations recalled that it had been universally recognized that the countries with the largest arsenals should bear a special responsibility for disarmament and should take the lead in disarmament measures; and that it was important to address the qualitative aspects of the arms race as well as its quantitative aspect. Amendments were proposed to the wording on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, the convention on chemical weapons, arms limitation, the proposed establishment of a multilateral nuclear alert centre, multilateral disarmament negotiations, negotiations to reduce nuclear weapons further, and to the reference to States "resisting the temptation to buy arms".

(ii) Special Political Committee

21. Some delegations expressed the view that more emphasis should be given to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Such co-operation was closely linked with the progressive development of space law, which must keep step with technological progress and fill the gaps in existing international legal instruments. Increasing and further strengthening international co-operation was essential for the rapid spread of the benefits of space explorations and space technology. In this regard, the agreement reached by the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, during its twenty-seventh session, on the inclusion in its agenda of the new item entitled "Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries" was an important breakthrough that should be duly taken into consideration. The convening of a working group to deliberate on this task and the compilation of the views of Member States on this matter was of high importance.

22. However, with regard to the new item before the Legal Sub-Committee, other delegations considered it premature at that point to decide on the setting up of a working group for that purpose. Those delegations would prefer first to hear the views of delegations at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee on the substance of the matter before deciding on the best way of proceeding.

(iii) Fourth Committee

23. The Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, responding to the invitation of the Chairman of the Fourth Committee to comment on the Secretary-General's note, expressed the following views.

24. The Chairman of the Special Committee noted with satisfaction that the list of issues which, in the view of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, could serve as a framework for determining priorities included the items on decolonization and Namibia. He also noted an overview by the Secretary-General in

his draft introduction to the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 on the status of the ongoing process of decolonization and his analysis of the tasks yet to be completed in that regard, as well as the reiteration by the Secretary-General that the Secretariat would continue to support United Nations organs concerned with Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories in their review of the compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the Member States responsible for the administration of those Territories. It was incumbent on the international community to continue to intensify its efforts to assist effectively the peoples of the remaining Territories in order to enable them fully and freely to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. The general orientation of the major programme on political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization should therefore be maintained throughout the plan period, said the Chairman of the Special Committee.

25. Some other delegations stated that the nature of the plan with regard to the work of the Fourth Committee was weakened by ambiguities, and the item on decolonization was mentioned in a very vague manner. Other delegations believed that the term "decolonization" was preferable to the term "self-determination".

2. International law, human rights and fundamental freedoms

(a) Economic and Social Council

26. Some delegations stated that insufficient weight had been given to the need to eliminate apartheid and colonialism. It was stated that the 1990s should see the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which would imply the abolition of apartheid, racism and all flagrant violations of human rights and the right to self-determination. It was further stated that the protection of human rights, a matter of central concern, had been given satisfactory prominence in the note, but that more could have been said about the protection of individual liberties and political rights. In the view of some delegations, human rights consisted first and foremost in the protection of the individual from the State. Other delegations pointed out that no mention had been made of the massive violations of human rights consequent upon colonialism, racism and foreign invasion and occupation, nor of the right to development. In addition, there was no mention of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, nor had the work of special rapporteurs and working groups on human rights been appropriately dealt with. Particular weight should be given to the need to pursue the struggle against racism in all its forms, and to the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Some delegations feared that too much attention had been paid to the question of terrorism, though other delegations attached primary importance to the struggle against terrorism. It was stated that United Nations activities in the codification of international law should continue.

(b) Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

27. The renewed emphasis on the primacy of law in international relations was welcomed. Some delegations agreed with the view of the Secretary-General that international security in its widest sense fundamentally depended upon respect for and compliance with international law. Some delegations expressed disappointment at the absence of specifics. The point was also made that additional emphasis should be devoted to the basic freedoms cherished by human beings around the globe as well as to economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development. Some delegations brought out the need to describe in more detail United Nations activities in the peaceful uses of outer space. It was mentioned that the role of the International Court of Justice should be highlighted. Some delegations stated that, in comparison with other major issues, disproportionate emphasis had been placed on terrorism, while others felt more emphasis was needed. Others still considered that no consensus yet existed on the definition of terrorism and that therefore the promotion of further legal steps such as the anti-hijacking conventions was more realistic than the development of an international law on terrorism. Some delegations considered the listing of international legal questions before the United Nations to be incomplete, and others suggested making a general reference in the text, while specific instruments could be listed in an annex. Some delegations stated that the paragraph dealing with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was too optimistic in tone. Others did not share that view. Some delegations felt that the Organization's future activity on this matter should be considered primarily as a question of economic development.

(c) Main Committees of the General Assembly

(i) Second Committee

28. Some delegations noted that they had repeatedly affirmed their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world and had noted the paramount importance they attached to the fight against terrorism. Those delegations also believed that the existing human rights mechanisms of the United Nations should be maintained and strengthened, including the bodies and special rapporteurs which had been established to monitor respect for the dignity of the human person and to protect the individual from the State.

(ii) Third Committee

29. Some delegations said one of the basic objectives of the medium-term plan should be to promote human rights by working for the complete elimination of apartheid and racial discrimination. The plan should stress flagrant and massive violations of human rights wherever they occurred. Some other delegations felt that colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation should also be included as factors contributing to the massive violations of human rights. Some delegations considered that international law and human rights and fundamental freedoms should remain the main focus of the revised plan. In their view, positive human rights programmes, as a complement to standard-setting and monitoring, were also important. Some delegations said the note failed to stress the impact of the

international economic and financial situation on human rights, particularly economic and social rights and the right to development. Other delegations wanted the introduction to refer to the protection and development of collective as well as individual human rights. Such collective rights as the right to self-determination, the right to development and permanent sovereignty over national wealth and resources, all embodied in international instruments, should also be reflected in the introduction which, said those delegations, had failed to attach the same importance to economic, social and cultural rights as to civil and political rights. The United Nations should do more research on the theory of economic, social and cultural rights in order to promote their implementation and the introduction should help to strengthen United Nations work in that area. Some delegations welcomed the reference to a convention on protecting the rights of migrant workers, while others thought the United Nations could do more for migrant workers.

30. Some delegations considered that the note was unclear on the respective roles of intergovernmental human rights bodies and special rapporteurs. The latter could not be considered a substitute for the former, it was stated. Some delegations thought that even if new human rights instruments might be needed in some areas, particularly regarding the rights of the child, the abolition of the death penalty and the defence of human rights, the United Nations should focus mainly on efforts to achieve universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms which had already been laid down. Some delegations considered that paragraph 47 of the Secretary-General's note failed to devote sufficient emphasis to the basic freedoms cherished by human beings around the world. Although theories of new rights would continue to be advanced, they could not be allowed to detract from the core issue: respect for the inalienable civil rights with which every human being was endowed, regardless of race, religion, gender, nationality, legal status or social position. The United Nations had a unique role to play in providing technical assistance to developing countries to build up their infrastructure with respect to human rights. That capability must be strengthened as global standards of justice evolved, and yet the draft introduction to the medium-term plan neglected that element, it was stated. Some delegations stressed that to maintain credibility for promoting human rights anywhere, the United Nations must concern itself with freedoms everywhere. Delegations also reaffirmed their support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and stated that the High Commissioner should be given sufficient resources.

3. Economic and social advancement of all peoples

(a) Economic and Social Council

31. Some delegations stated that the United Nations should continue to grapple with questions such as the sustained growth of the world economy and national economies, the normalization of international trade, the external indebtedness of developing countries, the elimination of protectionism and imbalances, the smooth functioning of the international financial and monetary system, co-operation in the field of science and technology, the protection of the environment and the rational utilization of natural resources. It was indispensable to resolve the most urgent economic problems of developing countries and to bear in mind the link between

disarmament and development. The Organization's activities during the coming decade should be devoted to guaranteeing the stability, the reliability and the predictability of international economic relations, said those delegations. Other delegations, however, considered that while the world economy in general and the process of development in particular had suffered reverses in the early eighties, this had been succeeded by positive changes in growth rates both for developed and developing countries, thus creating a more favourable environment for dealing with problems such as external debt and the situation of the least developed countries.

32. Some delegations found the section unsatisfactory in that it merely presented all the activities of the Organization in the economic and social fields. Such an approach was not sufficiently vigorous or ambitious, nor was the treatment of problems and possible causes sufficiently analytical, in the view of those delegations. They felt that the important ideas and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland report, A/42/427, annex) should have been more prominently highlighted in the note. Other delegations agreed that halting and reversing the deterioration of the environment was of particularly pressing importance. Some delegations were of the opinion that it was necessary to reflect in this section of the introduction the consensus reached at the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and that the international development strategy of the fourth United Nations development decade should inform the content of the plan. The view was also expressed that insufficient attention had been given in the note to the critical situation in Africa, and it was hoped that the priorities listed in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (Assembly resolution S-1312, annex) and the Lagos Plan of Action would find appropriate reflection in the final version. The discussion of external debt, a problem of equal magnitude, made no mention of the need for resource flows for development purposes, it was pointed out. Other major problems included the instability of commodity prices, protectionism among developed countries and the net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries, said some delegations. On the issue of poverty, some delegations said it should be considered in the context of growth and development, and not as a spontaneous phenomenon. Futhermore, it was not necessary to seek reasons to justify its eradication, but rather its causes should be sought and addressed, since the eradication of poverty was the most important objective of social and economic development. Some delegations suggested that too much emphasis had been placed on the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in dealing with debt and the results of the Uruguay Round on multilateral trade negotiations, and that the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council also had an important contribution to make in this regard.

33. In the view of some delegations, it was indispensable to improve the dialogue between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, among the agencies themselves, and between the agencies and UNDP as well as that between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. The treatment of operational activities for development should have insisted on the validity of the principles and objectives of the 1970 Consensus, in the view of some delegations, and the link between the Organization's normative activity and its operational activities should be strengthened in a way that avoided any interference in the internal affairs of States. Moreover, said some delegations, it should have been clearly indicated

that operational activities should respond above all to national priorities of developing countries. It was further stated that problems of food, agriculture, natural resources and the transfer of technology should have been brought into sharper focus. The great importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries should also have figured more prominently in the draft, it was stated. The view was also stated that in general, the main thrust of the next plan should be to make available to all the results of scientific and technological progress so as to assist countries in their development and to reduce existing disparities for the benefit of all.

34. On social matters, it was pointed out that the draft did not refer to the interregional consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, held at Vienna in 1987. While not enough weight had been accorded to the social development programmes of organizations of the system, disproportionate attention had been devoted to AIDS, it was stated. Some delegations felt the role of the United Nations with regard to refugees and migrant workers should have been spelled out. In the view of some delegations, population was not an issue in itself, but rather its geographical distribution and the extreme disparities in consumption between developing and developed countries that caused concern. A matter of great importance to a number of delegations was the integration of women in development, as well as the advancement of women in general. Those delegations also considered that the fight against drug abuse should be intensified at the international level. Some delegations also felt that the development of human resources was not just a question of well-being, but had great significance for true and lasting development.

(b) Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

35. It was stated that the entire economic and social sector needed an approach which reflected realism and fresh thinking and which led to specific proposals and activities. Some delegations considered that the core of the planning effort for the 1990s was the clear setting of priorities. They stressed that among the problems that would mostly affect international peace and security were the persistence of underdevelopment, the widening gap between rich and poor countries and the stagnation and even decrease in the standards of living of the majority of people in a great number of developing countries. Those delegations considered that a major programme should be created to cover the promotion of international co-operation for development. In this context, they emphasized the need to pay greater attention to the desperate socio-economic conditions of the least developed countries.

36. Some delegations believed that insufficient weight had been given to the role that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General should play in dealing with questions such as external debt and trade, commodities and international finance and monetary questions, and others. Others felt that the role of the United Nations per se in this field was quite limited. The role of free markets in relation to commodities and resource flows should be mentioned, it was stated. Resource flows, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, the net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries and the causes of poverty should all have been

given more prominence, said some delegations, as well as the question of co-ordination with the specialized agencies in, inter alia, operational activities for development. In this context, the point was made that the specialized agencies should complement the work of the United Nations, not the other way round, and that the United Nations should continue to play a leading role in searching for solutions to the problems of economic development. With regard to technical co-operation, some delegations stated that the 1970 Consensus was still valid and should provide the basis for the treatment of that issue in the introduction to the plan.

37. The importance of the relationship between the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade and the medium-term plan for the period starting in 1992 should also have been better highlighted, it was stated. Moreover, some delegations stressed the need to further examine within the United Nations the existing links between the problems of peace, security, disarmament and development and the environment, as was outlined in paragraph 80 of the draft introduction. Some delegations agreed with the idea of the Secretary-General that, in the economic and social area, the role of the United Nations in providing a universal forum for the consideration of issues of concern to Member States, for the early identification and analysis of emerging problems and for the harmonization of the actions of nations should be increased.

38. Some delegations expressed concern at the way the Bretton Woods institutions were mentioned in the draft introduction. In their view, the United Nations should be the institution that set guidelines in the economic field. These delegations also referred to the outdated solutions and recommendations of the Bretton Woods institutions, which lacked sensitivity to the economic and social consequences they could cause to Member States.

39. Some delegations also felt that more emphasis should have been placed on the environment. In this connection, reference was made to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the particular need to find solutions to the related problems of pollution and toxic waste. The importance of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was highlighted. Some delegations stated that more attention should be given in the draft introduction to action by the United Nations to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and to efforts to develop new and renewable sources of energy.

40. Some delegations stressed the great importance of social issues in the work of the United Nations and proposed that social development should be a major programme. Some delegations stressed the need to pay particular attention to the questions of the advancement of women, youth, the aged, the handicapped and the homeless. They also underscored the need to give special importance to the welfare and development of children, including the establishment and fulfilment of their rights. It was important too, in the view of some delegations, to recognize the shared responsibility of producers and consumers for the eradication of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

(c) Main Committees of the General Assembly

(i) Second Committee

41. Some delegations believed the importance of the Secretary-General's note was further underscored by the fact that the adoption of the next medium-term plan should coincide with the convening of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the reactivation of growth and development of developing countries, as proposed by the Group of 77, the launching of the fourth international development strategy, the completion of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, the evaluation of the results of Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in Paris in 1990, and, lastly, the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development planned for 1992. Although those were independent events, the links between them could not be ignored, in the view of those delegations, who felt that the corresponding priorities should be incorporated in the next medium-term plan. In that connection, it was useful to recall that the main objective of the Organization in the economic and social sectors was to promote international co-operation for development. Accordingly, attention should be devoted as a matter of priority to such key issues as international trade, monetary questions, development finance, external debt, commodities, science and technology and the environment. Some delegations believed that the campaign against deterioration of the global environment ought to be highlighted more eloquently in the note.

42. Some delegations feared the further fragmentation of the Organization's capacity to conduct integrated analyses in the economic and social spheres. To establish a separate major programme for "social development", isolated from the general context of international co-operation for development, would in the view of those delegations be a step backwards. However, other delegations said it was necessary to make some adjustments and to separate social problems from economic problems in order to treat the latter independently. Other delegations voiced the opinion that in view of the close interrelationship between the different variables affecting and limiting development, a distinction should be established between the economic and social aspects of development.

43. While some delegations reiterated that the role of the United Nations in dealing with external debt and trade-related problems had been underestimated in the note compared to that of IMF and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, others believed that the Bretton Woods institutions were the organs having legal and technical competence to tackle the debt problem. Moreover, said those delegations, the note made no mention of the role of free markets in connection with primary commodities and resource flows, which lessened the usefulness of that analysis as a basis for specific and concerted international action. Some delegations were of the opinion that the sections of the note describing the evolution of the world economic situation could be adjusted and refined to reflect more accurately the realities experienced by the developing countries. For example, reference was made to adjustment (para. 49) without mentioning "development", a term which could not be replaced by the expression "economic and social advancement", stated those delegations. Mention must also be made of the

consequences of the adjustment programmes implemented by the developing countries, in particular in the social sphere: life expectancy, for example, had decreased in some countries, they stated.

44. Some delegations said the programmes in the plan should be aimed at implementing instruments such as the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI)), the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX) and the resolutions and Final Act of the seventh session of UNCTAD, as well as various resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council dealing, inter alia, with external debt, international economic security, confidence-building measures and the protection of the environment. Other delegations, however, expressed their disagreement with references in the text to the new international economic order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the right to development, and also to the codes of conduct on the transfer of technology and transnational corporations. Those concepts had the effect of encouraging differences of opinion between States, whereas the medium-term plan ought to be a pragmatic forward-looking document whose structure would enable all countries to work together for the economic and social development of all countries, it was stated. Some delegations considered it unfortunate that the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, adopted by the General Assembly in 1979, had yet to be implemented effectively. Environmental problems were another issue of particular interest to some delegations. Sustainable development required an intersectoral approach that took into consideration demographic trends, food security, the environment and energy.

(ii) Third Committee

45. Some delegations stated that the capacity of the United Nations to deal effectively with global and regional issues that were important for ensuring social progress, including the advancement of women, should be strengthened. While some delegations believed adequate resources should be provided to enable the United Nations to continue its important work in combating drugs, others felt drug trafficking could not be fought by isolated measures, but required an international effort to provide more economic assistance and technical co-operation to the developing countries, particularly in the agricultural sector. Closer attention should be paid to the problem of aging, in the view of some delegations.

4. Information and common services

(a) Economic and Social Council

46. Some delegations stressed that overlapping of activities between the United Nations and the specialized agencies must be avoided. In this connection, a more rational use of resources and better co-ordination were required. Some delegations felt that the results of the review carried out by the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields (see E/1988/75) should be fully incorporated into the plan, and that the Jansson report would also lead to practical reforms. Some delegations expressed the view that the

function of the information service was not merely to present a favourable image of the Organization but should act in conformity with the mandates and priorities defined by the General Assembly. Others expressed the hope that the activities of the United Nations in the 1990s would be characterized by greater flexibility and increased effectiveness.

(b) Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

47. Some delegations noted that public information and common services were not really programmes, but involved activities undertaken to further the Organization's substantive activities. It was stressed that the independence and quality of the international civil service should be increased. In the view of some delegations, a reference to a new world information and communications order should be included. Others questioned whether public information really belonged in part D of the proposed medium-term plan or whether it should either be placed elsewhere or be largely subsumed within substantive programmes. References were also made to the potential risks of relying too much on outside services and to the desirability of decentralization in financial and personnel services, if it was properly carried out. The need to continue to introduce new technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of conference and other services was also mentioned.

(c) Main Committees of the General Assembly

(i) Special Political Committee

48. Some delegations reiterated the importance they attached to the work of the Department of Public Information which was entrusted with an essential role in better reaching the peoples of the world to explain to them the role and the objectives of the United Nations system as a universal multilateral forum dedicated to the maintenance of international peace and security, to the development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights, of self-determination of peoples and to the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging global development and respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms. The same delegations considered it essential that the Department should discharge its mandate in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolutions, including the recommendations of the Committee on Information. In this context, the Department should seek to improve the quality and the impact of the programmes it produces in the priority areas as set by the General Assembly, namely, decolonization, the question of Palestine, apartheid and Namibia, external debt and human rights. Special emphasis should be given to the need to establish the new world information and communication order, which was based, inter alia, on the free circulation and wider and better-balanced dissemination of information and on the urgent need to change the dependent status of the developing countries in the field of information and communication and which was seen as an evolving and continuous process. To this end, co-operation between the Department and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) should be further strengthened. The Department should also seek to enhance its co-operation with the news media of the developing countries. For those delegations the United

Nations system should endeavour to promote further co-operation between developed and developing countries on the one hand, and among developing countries on the other hand, to create, improve and strengthen the necessary infrastructure of the developing countries in the field of information and communication. This type of co-operation would certainly contribute to a large degree to understanding and friendship between all nations of the world. Therefore, this should be duly reflected in the medium-term plan and in the Secretary-General's note. Finally, with regard to the restructuring in the Department, those delegations were of the view that the General Assembly should closely monitor and evaluate the performance of the Department to ensure that it functions efficiently and effectively and fulfils the legislative mandates assigned to it.

C. Priorities

1. Economic and Social Council

49. Some delegations considered the treatment of priorities in the note of the Secretary-General to be too general, and said they should be refined bearing in mind the observations of Member States. The view was expressed that section III of the note, entitled "Comments on priorities", more or less repeated the content of section II on mandates and programmes without, however, defining priorities more clearly. The third section should rather be devoted to the highest priorities, that is, peace and development. Others concurred with the view of the Secretary-General that the maintenance of international peace and security, the pursuit of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, the promotion of economic and social development of all peoples and the protection of human rights remained the priority questions with which the Organization should continue to be seized in the coming years.

2. Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

50. Some delegations felt that it was important to set clear priorities and that the Secretary-General had a role to play in assisting Member States to set those priorities by identifying policy orientations. Some others believed that more emphasis should have been placed on analysing problems and proposing solutions on the basis of forward-looking thinking. Some delegations were of the view that priority should be accorded to activities where the United Nations was likely to be able to achieve practical results. Some delegations considered that the priorities presented in the introduction should be drawn up in accordance with section II of Assembly resolution 36/228.

51. Some delegations also felt the priorities in the draft introduction were presented at too great a length. Others considered that the order of the priorities was at fault, stating that economic and social development should take pride of place. Some delegations believed more attention should have been devoted to Namibia, to Palestine and to the continuing problems of decolonization. The reference to the possible establishment of a multilateral nuclear alert centre was considered by some delegations to be premature. Some delegations indicated that

the fundamental concern in the field of disarmament was to achieve general and complete disarmament. They added that limitation of armaments, not just control, should be an aim. Some delegations stated that the Organization's possible role in the verification of compliance with disarmament agreements, in satellite monitoring and seismic detection of nuclear tests should have been highlighted further. Other delegations were not of that view. Some considered that greater emphasis should have been placed on demography and statistics.

52. Some delegations took the view that the priority accorded by the Assembly to the question of Palestine had not been adequately reflected in the draft introduction. Furthermore, the resolutions relating to the holding of an international conference on the Middle East conflict and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable right to self-determination had not been given sufficient prominence.

53. With regard to priorities referred to in the draft introduction, the Committee recalled that Assembly resolution 41/213 required full implementation of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

3. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

54. Information explaining the rationale used in the preparation of the Secretary-General's comments on priorities should have been provided. Such information should have included an evaluation of relevant programme outputs against the plan objectives in the previous period. The Advisory Committee expected that those omissions would be rectified when the proposed medium-term plan for the period beginning in 1992 was prepared.

4. Main Committees of the General Assembly

55. In order to avoid duplication, comments made in the Main Committees have been grouped together under this section. It should be noted, however, that comments made in the Fifth Committee were by far the most extensive. It was generally recognized that the selection of priorities was an arduous exercise, and the Organization still lacked an efficient method for determining priorities for the medium-term plan and the programme budget. Some delegations recalled a proposal that the Secretary-General should present a report on the approach and methodology for identifying priorities in future programme budget outlines. Although the tasks of identifying priorities for the programme budget and the medium-term plan were distinct, they were closely related and the report recommended by the CPC would be a useful tool, it was stated.

56. Some delegations said they would have preferred the section on priorities to be something other than a repetition of mandates, and wondered if it might not be best in future introductions merely to enunciate basic principles and goals. Others considered that the preliminary proposals contained in paragraphs 95 to 111 of the Secretary-General's note required further development. Due regard should be

paid to all the criteria laid down in the Programme Planning Regulations and Rules, as well as those suggested as additions by the Secretary-General in paragraph 7 of his report. Those delegations reaffirmed their attachment to the purposes and principles of the Charter, their belief that the maintenance of international peace and security remained the primary task of the United Nations, their conviction that the concept of human rights denoted first and foremost the protection of the individual against the State, and their commitment to the United Nations as a forum for dialogue and co-ordination in international economic co-operation. They also reaffirmed their conviction that the United Nations should contribute to activities in the field of disarmament, to the protection of the environment, to combating drug abuse and to promoting progress on other social issues. They attached fundamental importance to United Nations involvement in the progressive development and codification of international law and in the fight against terrorism. Lastly, they reaffirmed their continuing commitment to the process of reform in the Organization itself.

57. In addition, said other delegations, particular importance should be attached to the work of the United Nations in the fields of development of human resources, protection of the environment and prevention and reduction of natural disasters, the latter being the major theme of the international decade for natural disaster reduction, which should be reflected explicitly in the medium-term plan. On the question of disarmament, some delegations felt it necessary to reflect the priorities established in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to specify the goal of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as that of the cessation of the arms race. Consideration should be given to the role the United Nations could play in verifying compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements, and, in the view of some delegations, it should be recalled that the main function of the United Nations was to provide a forum for concluding disarmament agreements.

58. On the subject of the advancement of women, some delegations said that priority should be given to the goals of equality and dignity of the human person, and to the involvement of women in economic decision-making. In the view of those delegations, the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies should also be regarded as a system-wide priority. Some delegations stressed the priority they attached to the efficient functioning of the various United Nations treaty bodies concerned with the protection of human rights, including the Centre for Human Rights. In the view of some delegations, drug abuse was one of the most important issues confronting the international community.

59. Some delegations considered that the Organization's priorities should focus on disarmament, verification and peace-keeping; environmental degradation, the depletion of natural resources and the question of sustainable development; universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; social progress, including the advancement of women and drug abuse control; and economic issues such as external indebtedness. In the economic and social sphere, in particular, there was a need for improved co-ordination, a concept not sufficiently stressed in the draft introduction to the medium-term plan.

D. Structure of the plan

1. Economic and Social Council

60. Delegations noted that the Secretary-General proposed to substitute four major programmes for the existing 31 and to reduce the number of programmes from 148 to 40, but pointed out that it was not specified which would be merged or how that merging would take place. While the aim of a simpler and more transparent plan was generally welcomed in principle, as long as it did not imply a reduction in the Organization's activities, some delegations felt it was necessary to ensure a balance between the programmes in the third major programme entitled "Economic and social progress of all peoples", and that social programmes should not eclipse economic programmes, nor those devoted to international trade or commodities. Some delegations proposed the addition of a major programme on international co-operation for development.

2. Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

61. Some delegations welcomed the proposed simplification of the major programme and programme structure, which would make the plan clearer and more transparent, while better reflecting the purposes of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter, and ensuring a more comprehensive and integrated approach to United Nations activities. It was also noted that the simplification should also serve to make the Organization work more efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, delegations emphasized that existing mandates should continue to be fulfilled and subprogrammes should not be reduced in scope or substance. In the view of some delegations, it was important for the structure to allow flexibility.

62. Some delegations considered that the restructuring should not be just a reorganization of programmes under new headings. The adoption of a simple, logical structure eliminating duplication was the first step to making the medium-term plan a useful management tool, and should lead to a shorter and clearer document reflecting the Organization's priorities.

63. However, some other delegations objected to the proposed restructuring and believed that the current structure of the medium-term plan should be maintained. In the view of those delegations, while the Charter should inspire the activities of the Organization, it was not a management tool and therefore not the proper basis for a planning document. The point was made that simplification of the structure risked being oversimplification, and thus failing to reflect the full scope and content of United Nations activities. More information was required on what the new programmes should be and how the new structure would compare with the one in the current plan.

64. Some delegations indicated that the lack of clarity and transparency of the new structure did not permit the Committee to form a definitive opinion, and that the information presented had given rise to serious doubts.

65. Further discussions of a preliminary nature then took place on the basis of an informal paper provided by the Secretariat at the request of delegations. Those discussions are reflected below. In introducing the paper, the representative of the Secretariat stated that consultations were still going on with the programme managers, and that the listing of proposed programmes contained in the paper was still provisional. The representative of the Secretariat further stated, in response to questions and comments from delegations, that separate programmes on Namibia, Palestine and decolonization had originally been omitted because of the possibility that the Organization's aims regarding those questions could be fulfilled by the time the next plan began in 1992. However, the representative added, separate programmes covering those questions could be added. The representative also stated that, in designing the structure of the plan, it made little difference in practice whether a sectoral approach or an organizational approach was employed, since the organization of Secretariat units was fundamentally based on the mandates of the United Nations. The representative also drew attention to regulation 3.6 (b) of the regulations and rules governing programme planning, according to which:

> "The medium-term plan shall identify ...
>
> "Programmes, consisting, within a major programme, of all activities in a sector which are under the responsibility of a distinct organizational unit, normally at the division level".

66. On the point of the omission of programmes because the aim of the questions contained in them could be fulfilled by the time of the medium-term plan, some delegations expressed their strong objections to singling out the programmes relating to Namibia, Palestine and decolonization for omission for such a reason. They were of the view that programmes mandated should appear in the medium-term plan. In the event that their aims were fulfilled, the present exercise of revision to medium-term plans would deal with all programmes that fulfilled their aims.

67. Contrasting views were expressed on the proposal to have separate programmes for the regional commissions. The specificity of their activities had to be reconciled with a central approach. Some delegations considered that the activities of the regional commissions should be grouped under a major programme. Some delegations stated that economic and social issues could be kept separate as long as care was taken that the implementation of the relevant programmes would reflect their close relationship. Other delegations stated that such a separation was difficult to reconcile with an integrated approach to development. Regarding technical co-operation, it was noted that it might be more feasible to treat this activity under the relevant programmes, as in the current plan, rather than having a specific programme. On a more general issue, some delegations considered that a case-by-case approach should be adopted to considering the introduction of changes reflecting emerging trends of international concern. For instance, crime prevention should be treated as a separate programme under major programme III on international co-operation for the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

68. It was stated that the proposed new structure appeared to present the 31 major programmes of the current medium-term plan as 38 programmes regrouped under four new headings. There appeared to be duplication, and some of the proposed new programmes could be combined. The point was made that the proposed new structure lacked conceptual consistency, with some programmes being based on substantive content and others according to organizational considerations. Additional information indicating future subprogrammes and on the listing of the activities of the regional commissions and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development was called for. Specific proposals were made to add new major programmes covering regional commissions, social development and humanitarian affairs. The concept of "global commons" was not fully developed, but might be acceptable as a major programme. It was recalled that the outcome of the deliberations of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields would also have to be taken into account.

69. It was stated that the relationship between the medium-term plan and the programme budget would be best served by a dual approach. In this way, the plan would reflect as far as possible a sectoral approach, while the programme budget would be based on the organizational structure and would be accompanied by information showing the distribution of resources by sector. It was also recalled that statements of programme budget implications were meant to include a programmatic analysis of the effects of proposals at the level of the medium-term plan.

70. In proposed major programme I on the maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and self-determination of peoples, some delegations stated that they failed to understand the reason for grouping those elements together in the same major programme. In two proposed programmes that were designed to cover political and Security Council affairs and political and General Assembly affairs, the repeated use of the word "political" was questioned, and the suggestion was made that those two programmes be merged. Questions were also raised about the inclusion of the words "equal rights" in the title of a proposed programme designed to cover special political questions, equal rights and self-determination. Some delegations were concerned that the questions of Namibia, Palestine and decolonization had not been included in this major programme. They proposed that decolonization be featured in the title of the major programme and in the relevant programme. Some delegations considered that Namibia, Palestine and decolonization should all be covered by separate programmes.

71. Regarding proposed major programme II, some delegations were concerned about the wording of the title "Respect for international law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and development of normative standards", as presented in the informal paper of the Secretariat. The grouping of elements and the use of the term "normative standards" were also criticized by some delegations. The delegations indicated that the work of the United Nations should be the progressive codification and development of international law, and that that fact should be reflected in the title of the relevant programme. It was further stated that no mandate existed for the inclusion of a reference to ocean affairs in the title of a proposed programme designed to cover the law of the sea and ocean affairs. Some

delegations said that proposed programmes designed to cover the promotion and protection of human rights, international protection of and assistance to refugees and international drug control were social rather than legal issues. Some delegations also questioned the inclusion of a proposed programme covering the peaceful uses of outer space in major programme II, which did not reflect all aspects of that question.

72. In their discussion of proposed major programme III, "International co-operation for the economic and social advancement of all peoples", as presented in the informal paper of the Secretariat, some delegations took the view that the words "of all peoples" were superfluous. Some delegations expressed their concern that the title of this major programme could lead to confusion in that it mixed economic and social aspects, and yet it appeared that only economic matters were contained in it. The delegations stated that the role of the Organization in the economic field should be active and not limited to providing a forum for study. They indicated that questions of great importance for the developing world, such as food and agriculture, industry and transport, basic resources, trade in manufactured goods and the transfer of technology, as well as science and technology, should also feature as programmes under this heading. It was further stated that specific programmes on African economic recovery, ocean affairs, debt, resource flows and narcotic drugs should also be included in proposed major programme III. The suggestion was also made that economic development and social development should be two separate major programmes, perhaps with the addition of another major programme covering humanitarian questions. In particular, it was proposed that economic development could contain programmes on development and international co-operation; issues and activities, including co-ordination; technical co-operation for development; global economic issues and policies; trade and development finance; and transnational corporations, while social development could encompass global social issues and policies; the advancement of women; the environment; population and so on. Some delegations pointed out that many activities had economic, social, legal and humanitarian aspects.

73. Some delegations stated that a proposed programme covering statistics should also be contained in major programme IV. Others, however, stated that statistics formed a basis for economic and social analyses and should be linked with economic development, as was the question of population.

74. Some delegations stated that proposed major programme IV, entitled "Information, conference and administrative services", was not really a major programme at all and could be entitled "Common services". Because of the substantive nature of some of its activities, public information should not be listed in this major programme, said some delegations. Public information, which was grouped under the same major programme, had characteristics quite distinct from personnel, financial and general services and to programme planning and co-ordination, it was stated. The view was expressed that a major programme covering legal services could also be added.

75. In considering the proposal for the structure of the medium-term plan, the Committee agreed that the information available was not sufficient to enable it to reach a substantive conclusion. The Committee therefore recommended that the

General Assembly at its forty-third session should consider with particular attention the question of the structure of the medium-term plan in light of the discussion conducted in the Committee. In implementation of that reommendation, the Main Committees of the Assembly were invited to discuss the proposed structure.

3. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

76. With regard to the proposed modification of the structure of the plan, the Advisory Committee believed that information that would explain the rationale for the proposed programme regroupings and would support the above statement should have been provided in the document, as it would have facilitated an assessment of whether the proposed changes were substantive or cosmetic. The Committee believed that efforts to streamline the medium-term plan should be encouraged. At the same time, the Committee cautioned that streamlining should not be construed as reducing activities.

4. Main Committees of the General Assembly

77. During discussions of the proposed structure in the Main Committees, some delegations believed that the attempt to simplify the structure of the plan was commendable, but that programmes should be merged only after thorough study, and new ones should not be ruled out if there was a need for them. Those delegations could support the proposed simplification, but only to the extent that it would make the plan more transparent and mould it into a useful and effective instrument. Others, however, took the view that simplification was sometimes desirable, but over-simplification was dangerous, particularly where such a complex issue was concerned. Still other delegations thought more information was needed for a discussion of the structure of the next plan, and said the criteria for the proposed reduction from 31 major programmes to four was unclear. In addition, said others, the reduction in the number of programmes would not be sufficient to ensure the rationalization and improvement of the operation of the United Nations that was necessary. Rather, they would result in the elimination or weakening of programmes which were very important for the developing countries. For some delegations, the important point was not the number of programmes but their quality and their relevance to the mandate entrusted to the United Nations by the international community. Some delegations proposed merging the section on human rights and fundamental freedoms with that on social progress. The draft introduction, it was said, did not indicate precisely what priorities would orient each of the major programmes or which programmes would be placed under the four major programmes. The point was made that the structure of the plan should reflect the functions of the intergovernmental organs and the various units of the Secretariat. In that regard, the Secretariat should carefully review the implications of formulating a major programme entitled "Peace, security, disarmament and the self-determination of peoples", which would include issues dealt with by the Security Council and by the Plenary, the First Committee and the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. In this context, some delegations criticized the grouping and wording of programmes under the first proposed major programme ("Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and self-determination of peoples"), which would include the work of

the Fourth Committee, expressing surprise that neither decolonization nor Namibia were mentioned. Those delegations proposed renaming the major programme "Maintenance of international peace and security, disarmament, decolonization and self-determination of peoples" renaming its proposed programme 4 as "Special political questions, equal rights, decolonization and self-determination of peoples" and adding a programme entitled "Namibia".

78. Some delegations considered that the new programme structure proposed in paragraph 33 of the note needed further consideration once relevant information about the criteria used to change the present structure was provided.

79. Those delegations reiterated their opinion that with regard to the United Nations reform process Member States should be constantly informed about full programme implementation. Further information about the new proposed programmes in the medium-term plan and their concrete impact on the existing programmes should be provided. The delegations emphasized that the existing priorities and mandates as set by the General Assembly should be fulfilled and that programmes related to them should not be reduced in scope or substance.

80. In November 1988, in order to take into account the comments made by Member States in various forums and to further assist delegations in their consideration of the proposed programme structure of the next medium-term plan, the Secretariat submitted a working paper (A/C.5/43/CRP.4) containing a revised proposal for a new programme structure, along with an explanation of the background and rationale for it (see annex).

81. During their consideration of the working paper, some delegations pointed out that it raised the issue as to whether the legislative activities of major intergovernmental bodies might be limited by the existence of agreed plans. If it became the only basis for action, the medium-term plan would limit the capacity of Member States to decide whether the international situation gave rise to a need for change, further development or the introduction of new objectives. Furthermore, said some delegations, the policy guide should not be based on the administrative structure of the Secretariat, but rather the reverse. It was also pointed out that regulation 3.6 of the Regulations and Rules on Programme Planning provided that the plan should be presented by programme and objective and not by organizational unit. Other delegations, however, took the view that the medium-term plan provided for the translation of mandated activity into programmes and required decisions to be taken on the allocation of responsibilities, an allocation which, if it was to be coherent, must reflect administrative structures. Consequently, the plan needed to make sense in terms of the structure of the programme budget. Those delegations also found the arguments for simplifying the structure of the plan compelling. They also endorsed the objective of closer compliance with the Regulations and Rules on Programme Planning, including the requirement that programmes should consist of all activities in a sector which were under the responsibility of a distinct organizational unit of the Secretariat, normally at the division level. A close relationship should be established between programmes and sections of the programme budget, said those delegations. The Secretary-General should be allowed flexibility, however, in finalizing his detailed proposals. Other delegations pointed out that the current plan had 31 major programmes which, at the same level

of aggregation, had become 44 in the new plan, although they were called programmes rather than major programmes. From a technical standpoint, substantial consolidation of programmes was needed to make the next plan useful and coherent, it was stated. From a budgetary standpoint, concentration of limited United Nations resources in key areas would make for more effective and efficient organization.

82. With regard to the proposed programme structure, some delegations stated that the division into four parts was an over-simplification. Those delegations raised the question as to whether, instead of basing those major parts on the major areas identified in the Charter, it would not be preferable to restructure the existing major programmes on an empirical basis, taking into account the real similarities, the work-load and the pattern of resource allocation. It was particularly important, in the view of those delegations, to maintain the close linkage between the issues of peace and security and the concrete and acute economic, social and humanitarian priority issues. The Secretariat was urged to carry out a thorough evaluation of the progress achieved under the current medium-term plan. Although a set of international mechanisms for promoting international co-operation were described in the note, there was no assessment of the efforts and progress made by the United Nations towards enhancing such mechanisms, or of the experience accumulated and progress made in enhancing the cause of multilaterialism in the sectors concerned, it was pointed out.

83. On more specific aspects of the structure, grouping and wording of the names of the major programmes and programmes by the Secretariat, some delegations proposed the splitting of major programme I into three separate major programmes: Disarmament and international security; Political and Security Council Affairs and Political and General Assembly affairs; and Decolonization. Others endorsed the reference to decolonization in major programme I, but felt that the self-determination of peoples also required specific mention. Other delegations regretted that the current major programme covering special political affairs had been divided into several separate programmes in the proposed new structure. Although those delegations were prepared to consider the inclusion of "Namibia" and "Elimination of apartheid" as separate programmes, they could not accept the proposal to include a programme entitled "Question of Palestine", and trusted that the title could be reworked on the basis of existing consensus language.

84. Some delegations welcomed the change in the title of major programme II, but the general nature of the title "international law" was questioned. In addition, the question was raised as to whether the special emphasis given to the law of the sea and ocean affairs through programme 11 might detract from programme 10, which would include such items as the development of international law or the activities of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. Other delegations took the view that the programmes suggested for major programme II were too general, and it would be better to reproduce the structure of the current medium-term plan. Some delegations questioned the rationale for a new major programme III, "Economic and social affairs", which would be distinct from the major programmes entitled "International economic co-operation for development" and "International co-operation for social development". Those delegations stated that the discussion in CPC offered no basis for creating such a major programme, which

would consist of two programmes, "Economic and Social Council affairs" and "Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination". Such activities were already part of international co-operation in the economic and social fields, it was stated, and the plan should not suggest otherwise. Some delegations stated that there was no reason for splitting up major programmes IV and V, the former relating to international economic co-operation for development and the latter to international co-operation for social development.

85. The view was expressed that there should be a single programme on international co-operation for development, covering all aspects of development, both economic and social. Furthermore, said some delegations, the list of programmes included under major programme IV was incomplete. It was most important that specific reference also be made to the fundamental priorities in the economic sector, for example, agriculture, industry, transport and communications, services, tourism and external debt. It would also, in the view of those delegations, be advisable to rename programme 14 simply "Development issues and policies", to rename programme 16 "Development finance, resource flows and net transfers of real resources". The absence of a reference to external debt was regretted, and it was proposed that a programme on debt issues be included or, as a minimum, that such a reference should be included in the title of programme 16. Agriculture and industry, although addressed by the specialized agencies, should continue to be the subject of specific United Nations programmes, it was stated. It was further proposed that programme 20 be renamed "Science and technology for development". Energy issues, at present in programme 22, should be dealt with in a separate programme, possibly entitled "Energy resources for development and new and renewable sources of energy". Those delegations also thought that the title of programme 23 ("Development planning, public administration, finance and management") was confusing, and therefore proposed that the words "public administration" be deleted and a separate programme on public administration should be established. It was also proposed that the word "management" be deleted, since it came within the domestic affairs of States.

86. With reference to major programme V, international co-operation for social development, some delegations proposed the insertion of a new programme, entitled "Integration of social groups", so as to reflect the global involvement of the United Nations in activities relating to youth, aging and disabled persons. Some delegations, however, considered that social development should be the subject of a separate major programme which should also incorporate human rights and fundamental freedoms. The divisions between individual programmes and the contents thereof required further consideration, said those delegations. Efforts had been made to address the problems of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, but attention should also be given to the problems of the regional commissions; the allocation of an independent programme to each commission should not impede implementation of their current programmes, it was stated. Some delegations believed that all items relating to international humanitarian co-operation should be combined in a single major programme. Accordingly, major programmes V and VII should be combined. Those delegations wished to know why such important topics as racism, discrimination, self-determination and the right to development had been omitted from part three. Furthermore, programme 38, Disaster relief, should be transferred to major programme III because of its economic and social aspects, it was proposed.

87. Some delegations proposed that a separate major programme should be devoted to information.

III. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE FUNCTIONAL, SECTORAL AND REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL OR EXPERT REVIEWING BODIES

88. Throughout 1989 and the beginning of 1990, in accordance with the calendar of consultations approved by the General Assembly and the provisions of its resolution 43/219, various subsidiary bodies of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council discussed the relevant portions of the draft plan submitted to them by the Secretariat.

A. Statistical Commission (twenty-fifth session, February 1989, E/1989/21)

89. The Commission supported in general the preliminary proposals for the medium-term plan in statistics for 1992-1997. The Commission noted that the medium-term plan was subject to formal review every two years, so that it could be revised in the light of changing circumstances. The reviews of the biennial work programmes that were formulated within the framework of the medium-term plan also provided opportunities for adjustments to be made in the light of the progress of the work. That flexibility was very important, as it permitted the Commission and the Statistical Office to take account of new developments at the national and international levels.

90. The Commission also supported the structure of the new medium-term plan for the statistics programme, noting that that structure was now established entirely along functional lines. The Commission had considerable difficulty in dealing with the topic of priorities. Although the Commission accepted the proposals for priorities set out in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/1989/24), namely, that subprogrammes 1 (Developing concepts and methods for use by Member States), 4 (Co-ordinating international statistical programmes) and 5 (Support for technical co-operation in statistics and statistical data processing) should be assigned high priority, it questioned the relevance of establishing priorities for the proposed medium-term period 1992-1997 at the present time. The Commission expressed satisfaction that the Statistical Office intended to circulate the note on the medium-term plan to other international organizations for comments.

91. In conclusion, the Commission:

(a) Expressed general support for the proposed objectives and strategies and the proposed new subprogramme structure set out in the conference room paper containing preliminary proposals for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

(b) Decided to leave unchanged priorities assigned to the subprogrammes from that recommended by the Commission in previous sessions, as set out in document E/CN.3/1989/24;

(c) Requested the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat to revise the proposals contained in the conference room paper to take the Commission's views into account;

(d) Endorsed the general direction of the planned work of international organizations in the area of statistics as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/1989/23) and agreed that the report served a very important purpose.

B. Population Commission (twenty-fifth session, February-March 1989, E/1989/24)

92. The Commission noted that the draft programme on population of the next medium-term plan consisted of five subprogrammes, namely: (1) Analysis of world demographic trends; (2) Population projections for all countries and regions of the world; (3) Population policy and socio-economic development; (4) Monitoring, review and appraisal, co-ordination and dissemination of population information; and (5) Technical co-operation for demographic data analysis and population policies in developing countries. The Commission also noted that subprogrammes 1 to 3 constituted a necessary basis for the elaboration of subprogramme 4 and were highly interdependent, and that all five subprogrammes were fully complementary.

93. In view of the importance attached by Member States to the monitoring, review and appraisal, co-ordination and dissemination of population information, the Commission agreed that subprogramme 4 should be given high priority.

C. Ninth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (March 1989, E/1989/43/Add.1)

94. The experts expressed agreement with the "guidelines" provided by the Secretary-General for the preparation of the medium-term plan. With regard to the text on public administration and finance, the experts observed that presentation could be further improved by a more elaborate description of "objectives and modalities", and a more detailed statement of objectives and modalities under each of the five major programme areas identified in the Secretariat paper. The objectives of the medium-term plan should be also harmonized with the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

95. The experts believed that the proposed new structure of the medium-term plan represented an improvement. The experts stressed the importance of the relationship among various major programme areas and the need for closer collaboration and joint activities between the public administration programme and other sectoral programmes. As far as combining programmes in development planning, public administration, finance and management, the Meeting noted that that represented a very broad category and it might be more useful to separate programmes in development planning and in public administration and finance. The experts also suggested that the title of the programme should be "Public administration and finance" and not "Public administration, finance and management".

D. Commission for Social Development (thirty-first session, March 1989, E/1989/25)

96. A few representatives said that only preliminary views could be expressed because of the late circulation of the documentation. Several representatives, in agreeing in principle with the proposals contained in the papers, pointed out that, in view of the financial limitations faced by the United Nations Office at Vienna, it was essential to set priorities. Concrete action should be emphasized. A number of priority topics should be addressed: concerning youth, attention might be given to unemployed and homeless youth in particular; the problems of the disabled, which must continue to receive attention after the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons; implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, which required increased efforts; social work; social aspects of poverty and of international migration, including migration of refugees and asylum seekers.

E. Commission on the Status of Women (thirty-third session, March-April 1989, E/1989/27)

97. Some representatives expressed appreciation for the inclusion of a separate specific programme on the advancement of women - programme 30 under the major programme V (International co-operation for social development) - as requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/18. One representative drew the attention of the Commission to document A/43/329 and to the priorities given therein to international peace and security, the pursuit of disarmament, the elaboration of international laws, the promotion of the economic and social development of all peoples and the protection of human rights. He hoped the next medium-term plan in the area of the advancement of women would reflect equally the three goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Another representative was concerned that the advancement of women programme had not received the global priority status requested by the Council in resolution 1988/18. She trusted that the subsuming of the programme under the major programme V would not marginalize women's issues. It was, she observed, important that women's issues be adequately reflected in economic programmes, as well as social ones. She further endorsed the designation of subprogramme 4, Monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the forward-looking strategies, as the highest priority; among the substantive subprogrammes, the next priority should be accorded to subprogramme 2, Development, particularly with regard to the areas related to population, literacy and education.

98. At its 13th meeting, on 6 April 1989, the Commission approved a draft resolution on the matter for adoption by the Council. The operative part is reproduced below.

"The Economic and Social Council,

...

"1. Welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to include a separate programme for the advancement of women in his draft proposal for the

medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/18 and Commission resolution 32/3;

"2. Decides that the inclusion of paragraph 65 in the draft introduction to the medium-term plan (A/43/329) is not an adequate response to the recommendation contained in paragraph I (1) of Council resolution 1988/18;

"3. Reiterates that the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the status of women in general should be identified as a global priority in the introduction to the next medium-term plan;

"4. Urges the Secretary-General to ensure that women's issues are not marginalized under the rubric of social issues, and that they are in particular reflected in the economic programmes outlined in the medium-term plan, as well as in other sections of the plan;

"5. Endorses the view expressed by the Secretary-General that subprogramme 4 of the proposed medium-term plan, entitled 'Monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies', should be given high priority, and urges that the highest priority be accorded to addressing the fundamental needs of women in developing countries, particularly in such sectors as literacy, education, employment, health and population, with a view to ensuring their full integration in the development process and full participation in decision-making;

"6. Decides that the development subprogramme within the advancement of women programme of the proposed medium-term plan should be reoriented to focus on the fundamental needs of women in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries."

99. That text was adopted by the Economic and Social Council as resolution 1989/30.

F. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (forty-fifth session, March-April 1989)

100. The relevant portion of the Commission's report (E/1989/33) reads as follows:

"In response to General Assembly resolution 43/219 of 21 December 1988 on programme planning, the Commission considered the proposed new structure of the next medium-term plan presented in document E/ESCAP/682. Welcoming the new structure of the programme on regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific under the major programme on regional co-operation for economic and social development, the Commission recommended the following structure of subprogrammes for ESCAP:

"A. Executive direction and management

"B. Substantive activities

1. Agriculture and rural development
2. Economic development issues and policies
3. Energy
4. Environment
5. Human resources development
6. Human settlements
7. Industrial and technological development
8. International trade and development finance
9. Natural resources (including marine affairs)
10. Population
11. Social development
12. Special programmes for the least developed and island developing countries
13. Statistics
14. Transnational corporations
15. Transport and communications
16. Women in development

"C. Programme support

1. Administration and common services
2. Conference services
3. Management of technical co-operation
4. Public information."

101. The Commission is scheduled to discuss the content of the draft plan at its forty-sixth session, in June 1990. Its comments will be conveyed to the Economic and Social Council at its second session of 1990 and to CPC at its resumed thirtieth session in September 1990.

G. Committee on Natural Resources (eleventh session, March-April 1989, E/1989/26)

102. One representative expressed the view that under the natural resources programme the assignment of priority to subprogrammes 1 and 2 of the section on the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and to subprogramme 1 of the section of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs represented a useful selection among the subprogrammes presented. As to the energy programme, he was of the view that subprogrammes 1 and 2 of the latter Department could be merged into one subprogramme, and that there appeared to be some similarity between that Department's subprogramme 3 and subprogramme 1 of the former Department.

103. Several delegations expressed the view that the programmes and subprogrammes embodied in the conference room paper had been formulated in a broad and flexible way, making it possible for specific issues to be included within the plan.

104. One representative indicated that the medium-term plan already reflected the priorities of the Committee on Natural Resources as articulated in previous resolutions adopted by the Committee. While finding the conference room paper to be straightforward in its presentation of subprogrammes, it emphasized the need for Governments to have the fullest opportunity to review those matters and expressed the hope that the Secretariat would co-operate more effectively in servicing the intergovernmental bodies in that regard. It also requested that priorities be established on the basis of resolutions previously adopted by the Committee.

H. Economic Commission for Africa (twenty-fourth session) and fifteenth session of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning (April 1989)

105. The Conference of Ministers adopted resolution 674 (XXIV) establishing an open-ended ad hoc committee to examine proposals to be submitted by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and to make appropriate recommendations to the Secretary-General on the Commission's behalf. Subsequently, the Ad Hoc Committee met the following October and discussed the structure and content of the draft plan relating to regional co-operation for development in Africa submitted by the secretariat of the Commission.

106. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee, to be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session (E/ECA/AD HOC.MTP/10), contained a detailed account of its consideration of the draft programme on Regional co-operation for development in Africa. Below are discussed only the parts of that report dealing with the subprogramme structure, the designation of priorities among subprogrammes and the text of the resolution adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

1. Subprogramme structure

107. Several representatives were of the opinion that the number of subprogrammes, as presented, was ideal. The subprogrammes were formulated on the basis of the overall orientation of the programme and as such, adequately reflected the main concerns of African countries as they made efforts to move out of the prevailing economic and social crisis. The subprogrammes fully reflected the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action. A reduction in their number would certainly obscure some of the issues.

108. Some representatives stated, however, that some room existed for the possible merger of a few related subprogrammes and the disaggregation of a few others in order to rationalize and focus the issues more. They made the following proposals:

(a) Merge subprogramme 2 (Agricultural development policy, planning and programming) and subprogramme 3 (Development of sustainable agricultural systems into) one subprogramme;

(b) Merge the social aspects of subprogramme 7 (Socio-economic analysis, planning and projections) with subprogramme 11 to constitute a complete subprogramme on social development or, alternatively;

(c) Split subprogramme 7 into two subprogrammes, namely, (i) Economic research and forecasting, and (ii) Social research and analysis;

(d) Merge subprogramme 14 (Human settlements in Africa), subprogramme 20 (Energy and development in Africa) and subprogramme 13 (Environment in Africa) under the title Environment in Africa;

(e) Introduce a new subprogramme under industrial development in Africa to focus on medium- and small-scale industries;

(f) Merge subprogramme 32 (Conference services) and subprogramme 33 (Administrative and conference services), into one subprogramme with the title Administrative and conference services;

(g) Merge subprogramme 6 (Water and living marine resources) and subprogramme 19 (Water resources);

(h) Merge subprogramme 27 (Transport in Africa), and subprogramme 28 (Communications in Africa), into one subprogramme (Transport and communications in Africa).

109. On being informed by the Deputy Executive Secretary that the number of subprogrammes had been reduced from about 69 substantive and support service subprogrammes in the 1984-1989 medium-term plan to 33 in the proposed plan, the Ad Hoc Committee took the view that the subprogramme structure could be retained as presented by the Secretariat.

2. Designation of priorities among subprogrammes

110. The Ad Hoc Committee debated the issue of priority-setting at length. It fully recognized that the United Nations was operating in a situation of severe resource constraints which made the ordering of priorities an imperative necessity. Africa was, however, a priority region of the United Nations and the urgency of its needs has been widely recognized by the international community as evidenced by the adoption by that community, of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The Ad Hoc Committee was of the firm view that each and every subprogramme in the programme Regional co-operation for development in Africa was consistent with the priorities designated in the Programme of Action. The Committee was, moreover, fully convinced that the full and complete implementation of the proposed programme would contribute substantially to the combined effort of the United Nations to address the critical situation in Africa. It was in that light that the Ad Hoc Committee decided to urge the Secretary-General to treat all the subprogrammes in the proposed programme as a priority for Africa and to allocate adequate resources to each of them for their effective implementation.

3. Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee

111. The operative part of the recommendation reads as follows:

"The Ad Hoc Committee,

...

"1. Requests the Executive Secretary when redrafting the Plan, to take into full account the views and recommendations of the Committee as contained in the report on its meeting (E/ECA/AD HOC.MTP/10);

"2. Requests also the Executive Secretary to transmit on behalf of the Commission, the redrafted version of the plan together with the Committee's report, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and requests the latter to incorporate these proposals in his final submission of the Medium-term Plan 1992-1997 to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

"3. Calls upon the African members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to give the proposals their fullest support, and urges that Committee to consider these proposals favourably at its thirtieth session."

I. Economic Commission for Europe (forty-fourth session, April 1989)

112. The Commission began consideration of a draft of the programme on regional co-operation for development in Europe at its forty-fourth session in April 1989 and undertook a more detailed study at its resumed session in June 1989 (E/1989/34, paras. 299-304, and addendum, paras. 17-65, and decision R(44)). The discussions bore upon the overall strategy at the programme and subprogramme level, but did not specifically relate to the draft introduction to the plan (A/43/329) or to the programme and subprogramme structures and priorities. Accordingly, only the decision taken by the Commission is reproduced below:

"The Economic Commission for Europe took note of the draft medium-term plan 1992-1997 and of the views and comments presented during the ad hoc meeting of its Sessional Committee, and requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to transmit to the Secretary-General the draft medium-term plan and the report of the proceedings of the resumed session, reflecting in particular the views and comments expressed during the session."

J. Commission on Transnational Corporations (fifteenth session, April 1989, E/1989/28/Rev.1, and sixteenth session, April 1990, E/1990/26)

113. A number of delegations stressed the continuing validity of the priorities in the current medium-term plan. Several delegations requested that the Centre prepare for the sixteenth session of the Commission the draft programme on transnational corporations of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, taking into account the relevant decisions and resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council. Several delegations expressed their willingness to contribute to the preparation of that draft.

114. The Commission noted that the draft programme on transnational corporations of the next medium-term plan consisted of three subprogrammes: (1) Securing an effective code of conduct and other international arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations; (2) Minimizing the negative effects of transnational corporations and enhancing their contribution to development; and (3) Strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations. The Commission also noted that those subprogrammes were well integrated.

115. At its sixteenth session, in April 1990, the Commission resumed its discussion of the matter on the basis of the draft programme on transnational corporations submitted by the Secretariat. Many delegations supported the draft in general. Several delegations emphasized the particular importance of subprogramme 3, on strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations. With regard to subprogramme 1, on securing an effective code of conduct and other international arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations, the opinion was expressed that the code's outcome would depend on the political will of the negotiating parties.

K. Commission on Human Settlements (Habitat) (twelfth session, April-May 1989, A/44/8)

116. After reviewing the draft programme submitted to it by the Secretariat, the Commission adopted resolution 12/22 of 3 May 1989, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The Commission on Human Settlements,

...

"1. Endorses the draft medium-term plan for human settlements proposed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) contained in the note on preparations for the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995 and translated in the report of the Executive Director on the draft programme for human settlements of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, according to the format prescribed by the Secretary-General, with the understanding that the item on land policy under subprogramme 5 of the

draft medium-term plan for human settlements for the period 1992-1997 be transferred to subprogramme 2 as subitem (f) and with the further understanding that a similar amendment be made to the note by the Executive Director;

"2. Confirms that the number of subprogrammes in the draft medium-term plan cannot be reduced;

"3. Reaffirms the importance of the human settlements component in the medium-term plan of the United Nations;

"4. Recalls that the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session intensively discussed the issue of determining priorities, as reflected in the report of the twelfth session of the Commission, between the subprogrammes of the draft medium-term plan, and concluded that the subprogrammes of the medium-term plan of the Commission are interlinked and mutually supportive;

"5. Also reaffirms that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and its enabling approach should guide the implementation of the subprogrammes and the emphasis within these subprogrammes;

"6. Designates subprogramme 2 (national policies and instruments), as amended in paragraph 1 above, as high priority, it being understood that this does not imply that 'Global issues and strategies' can be seen in isolation from subprogramme 2;

"7. Also designates subprogramme 5 (Land management), as amended in paragraph 1 above, as low priority;

"8. Decides that the priority indications set for the human settlements programme will be subject to review in connection with the biennial work programme of the medium-term cycle;

"9. Stresses the need for adequate treatment of human settlements in the introduction of the draft text for the medium-term plan and requests the Executive Director to forward to the Secretary-General the following paragraph to be incorporated in paragraph 78 of the note of the Secretary-General on the next medium-term plan:

> 'All the development efforts outlined in the plan rest, in the final analysis, on efficient settlement systems capable of supporting expansion of production and employment and of bringing about improved living conditions. Settlements development should be based on an "enabling" concept which fosters the full participation of all actors in the process, the public sector, the formal and informal sector, non-governmental, co-operative and community organizations and individual households. One important element is the production and distribution of sufficient, affordable shelter, as envisaged in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, to house the world's population, especially those without shelter or living in houses unfit for human habitation.'"

/...

L. Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (fifteenth session, May 1989, A/44/25)

117. The Governing Council of UNEP adopted at its special session in 1988 a system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1990-1995. At the Governing Council's fifteenth session, from 15 to 26 May 1989, it adopted resolution 15/21 on the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 (A/44/25). The operative paragraph of that resolution read as follows:

"The Governing Council

...

"Decides

"(a) That, while the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 need not be subject to a formal revision at the present time, its development and implementation should continue in the course of ongoing joint programming, resulting, inter alia, in the forthcoming biennial environment programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, reflecting more closely the structure and recommendations of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and taking into account the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development so as to orientate the programmes, inter alia, towards an anticipatory and preventive approach;

"(b) That no further evaluation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1984-1989 is needed;

"(c) That the mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 should be carried out in accordance with paragraph 411 of the approved text of that programme;

"(d) That, at its seventeenth regular session, it will provide the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination with its views as policy guidance for the preparation of the system-wide environment programme for the period 1996-2001."

M. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (fifteenth session, May 1989, E/1989/36)

118. The Commission considered a draft of the programme on regional co-operation for development in Western Asia and adopted resolution 173 (XV), the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

...

"1. Stresses the need to ensure that the plan fully and harmoniously reflects the development priorities and requirements of the State members of the Commission in the light of recent developments in the region and in the world;

"2. Approves in principle the draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, bearing in mind the observations made in the meetings of the Technical Committee at its sixth session, especially those concerning the adoption of a method of follow-up based on annual reports, as well as those received from the member States by the end of June 1989 at the latest;

"3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Technical Committee at its seventh session a progress report on the revision of the plan."

N. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (June 1989, A/44/20)

119. The Committee recommended changes in the working paper submitted to it. In addition, the suggestion was also made that it should include a reference to monitoring of the Earth's environment from outer space.

O. Committee on Conferences (August 1989, A/44/32 and Corr.1-3)

120. Delegations conveyed their general satisfaction with the structure of the medium-term plan outline for conference and library services, finding that it was both clearer and simpler in its presentation than plans reviewed in other years.

121. They also expressed concern about the timetable for the consideration of the full medium-term plan in its draft form by the Committee on Conferences, finding that the input of the Committee would be enhanced if it could be offered before the consideration of the Secretary-General's proposed medium-term plan as a whole by CPC at its spring 1990 session for presentation to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The Secretariat conveyed to the Committee the timetable established by the Secretary-General for preparing the draft medium-term plan and suggested that the Committee might wish to meet again before the May 1990 session of the CPC and review the proposed medium-term plan for conference and library services in its final draft form. For that purpose, the Committee decided to hold meetings in early 1990.

122. After holding those meetings, the Committee decided to consider the matter further at its substantive session, to be held later in 1990.

P. Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (Tenth session, August-September 1989, A/44/37)

123. During the debate, the following points were made by various representatives. The proposed emphasis and approach of the medium-term plan was supported. There was a need for improved co-oper tion between the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and other United Nations organizations, such as UNESCO, the United Nations University (UNU) and the regional commissions. There was also a need to take concrete steps to win the support of the international scientific community. Priorities, specific tasks and expected outputs should be defined more clearly and be related to each other. The proposed programme should not lead to an expansion of the regular budget of the Centre. Among the subprogrammes, subprogramme I concerning policy analysis, research and mobilization of resources for science and technology for development was supported. Another priority would be technology assessment and the Advanced Technology Alert System. The decision that the Committee would take on the end-of-decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development should be reflected in the next medium-term plan of the Centre, to begin in 1992.

124. By paragraph 10 of its resolution 2 (X), the Intergovernmental Committee approved the draft programme in science and technology of the medium-term plan in the light of the end-of-decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action by the Intergovernmental Committee.

Q. Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board (eighteenth session, October 1989)

125. Draft programmes on International trade, Development finance, resource flows and external debt and Special programmes and activities, including least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, were considered, in October 1989, by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board. In concluding its review of these programmes, the Working Party noted that a number of major events would take place in the forthcoming period, both within UNCTAD and elsewhere, which would have implications for UNCTAD sections of the medium-term plan. The Working Party also stressed the importance of taking into account the relevant results of these events in the process of the revision of the plan. It decided to approve the text reflecting the outcome of its review of the draft UNCTAD sections of the plan. The Working Party's decision was submitted to the Board's session in spring 1990.

R. Commission on Narcotic Drugs (thirty-third session, February 1989, E/1989/23, and thirty-fourth session, February 1990, E/1990/24)

126. During the Commission's consideration of the draft programme on international drug control in 1989, several representatives and observers commended the Secretariat on its long-term approach in setting priorities as indicated in the draft medium-term plan, and expressed satisfaction at the allocation of priority to treaty implementation, the provision of assistance to States in connection with the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted in 1988, and the consideration given to the follow-up to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The inclusion of a new subprogramme on an information strategy as a follow-up to the recommendation of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council was supported by many speakers. It was noted that with the adoption of the 1988 Convention, a major recommendation of CPC had been implemented.

127. Several speakers considered that the Commission was not able to review in depth the work programme of the Division of Narcotic Drugs in the context of the medium-term plan owing to the lack of detailed financial and other information concerning the activities covered in the programme.

128. Several speakers expressed their reservations with regard to the text of paragraph 67 of the introduction to the medium-term plan (A/43/329, annex), since it failed to reflect accurately the content of the international drug control programme. It was pointed out that the drug control treaties which constituted the basis for drug abuse control were not mentioned in that paragraph and that the essence and balance of the Declaration of the International Conference had been omitted. It was accordingly recommended that the paragraph be redrafted in its entirety in order to encompass the basic principles contained in the preambular paragraphs of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, that Convention as Amended by the 1972 Protocol, as well as the preambular paragraphs of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, to reflect the purpose and intent of the parties to the international drug control treaties. Such redrafting was considered essential in order to establish the proper priority of the drug control programme as a component of the envisaged new structure of the medium-term plan.

129. In introducing the item at the Commission's thirty-fourth session, in 1990, the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs pointed out that the Commission had already considered the medium-term plan at its thirty-third session, where it was agreed that the highest priority was to be assigned to the subprogramme on treaty implementation, which dealt in a comprehensive manner with all the main aspects of international drug control, that is, with the illicit supply of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs. The Chairman supported the Director's suggestion that the highest priority should be given to treaty implementation and added that the medium-term plan, being a dynamic instrument, would later have to reflect the decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session.

130. One representative, while agreeing that treaty implementation was the corner-stone of the struggle against narcotic drugs, requested that equally high priority should be given to the provision of technical assistance to developing countries in order to enable them to implement the treaties.

131. The Commission endorsed the medium-term plan as contained in the conference room paper before it, including a revised text of paragraph 67 of the draft introduction to the medium-term plan (document A/43/329). The revised text reads as follows:

> "67. Eradicating drug abuse is essential to the well-being of all people, especially young people, to the international control of crime and, in many cases, to the security of individual nations. Efforts now under way to combat the drug menace, anchored on a series of treaties entered into by sovereign States to help meet their basic obligation of protecting the health, welfare and safety of their citizens, will continue into the next decade. The adoption of the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking proclaimed in 1987, which recognized the collective responsibility of States to provide appropriate resources for the elimination of illicit production, trafficking and drug abuse, and of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances were a welcome expression of the political will of nations to combat the drug menace in all its forms. In formulating its programmes during the medium-term plan period, the United Nations will make practical recommendations on the basis of the general framework provided by the various international drug control treaties and more specifically, to further implementation of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances with the ultimate goal of strengthening action and co-operation at the national, regional and international levels in order to create a world free of drug abuse."

S. International Narcotics Control Board (forty-fifth session, May 1989)

132. A draft of the relevant portion of the programme on international drug control was submitted to the Board. Subsequently, the substantive comments of the Board were incorporated by its Secretariat in the draft submitted to Headquarters.

T. Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

133. In acordance with General Assembly resolution 43/219, members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control were consulted by correspondence in 1989 because the Committee was not scheduled to meet in that year.

134. A revised draft of the programme on Crime prevention and criminal justice, incorporating the comments contained in the replies from the members of the Committee, was submitted to the Committee at its eleventh session, held in February 1990. The Committee agreed to take note of the revised draft programme (E/1990/31, chap. II).

U. Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

135. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 43/219, members of the Committee were consulted by correspondence in 1989 because the Committee was not scheduled to meet during that year. In view, however, of the limited number of replies received, the Secretariat submitted a revised draft of the programme on Energy to the Committee at its session held in April 1990. The revised draft incorporated the changes made on the basis of the comments received in 1989.

136. At the 1990 session, delegations pointed out that the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, extended to 1991, had included a major programme on energy with two central programmes, the first being the survey of the energy situation in its international context and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy. Delegations wondered if the change reflected a de-emphasis on activities in new and renewable sources of energy. The representative of the Secretariat explained that the change in the title of the programme had been made in order to simplify the structure of the medium-term plan.

V. Committee on Information (twelfth session, April-May 1990)

137. The Committee on Information considered a note by the Secretariat and the Secretary-General's proposed programme on public information (A/45/6 (Prog. 39). The Committee decided, by consensus, to take note of the note by the Secretariat and of the proposed medium-term plan for the programme on public information, and to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the proposed medium-term plan.

W. Commission on Human Rights (forty-fifth session, January-March 1989)

138. A draft of the programme on promotion and protection of human rights was submitted to the Commission at its forty-fifth session. The Commission did not make any comments thereon.

X. Committee on Development Planning (twenty-sixth session, 1990)

139. A draft of the programme on global development issues and policies was circulated to the members of the Committee for their comments.

Y. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

140. The member States of the Commission were consulted by correspondence in 1989. Their individual comments were taken into account by the secretariat of the Commission in the draft submitted to Headquarters.

ANNEX

Proposed programme structure of the medium-term plan for the period beginning in 1992*

Part One. International peace and security and international law

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programmes

1. Good offices, special missions and peace-keeping operations
2. Political and Security Council affairs
3. Political and General Assembly affairs
4. Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization
5. Namibia
6. Question of Palestine
7. Elimination of apartheid
8. Disarmament
9. Peaceful uses of outer space

MAJOR PROGRAMME II. CODIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Programmes

10. International law
11. Law of the sea and ocean affairs

---

* Originally issued in document A/C.5/43/CRP.4.

Part Two. International co-operation for economic and social development

MAJOR PROGRAMME III. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Programmes

12. Economic and Social Council affairs

13. Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination

MAJOR PROGRAMME IV: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Programmes

14. Global development issues and policies

15. International trade

16. Development finance and resource flows

17. Special programmes and activities, including least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

18. African economic recovery and development

19. Environment

20. Science and technology

21. Population

22. Natural resources and energy

23. Development planning, public administration, finance and management

24. Human settlements

25. Transnational corporations

26. Statistics

MAJOR PROGRAMME V. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programmes

27. Global social issues and policies

28. Advancement of women

29. International drug control

30. Crime prevention

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programmes

31. Regional co-operation for development in Africa

32. Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific

33. Regional co-operation for development in Europe

34. Regional co-operation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

35. Regional co-operation for development in Western Asia

Part Three. International co-operation for the promotion of human rights and humanitarian assistance

MAJOR PROGRAMME VII. HUMAN RIGHTS, FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Programmes

36. Promotion and protection of human rights

37. International protection of and assistance to refugees

38. Disaster relief, including special emergency relief operations

Part Four. Common services

MAJOR PROGRAMME VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Programme

39. Public information

MAJOR PROGRAMME IX. CONFERENCE SERVICES

Programme

40. Conference and library services

MAJOR PROGRAMME X. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Programmes

41. Administrative direction and management

42. Human resources and management

43. Programme planning, budget and finance

44. General services